Winchell Scripts Ordered By Dies Group

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Washington, March 17 (AP)—Ordering an investigation of radio comment by Walter Winchell, the Dies Committee today issued a subpoena on the Blue Network to produce all scripts and recordings of the Winchell broadcasts for the last two years.

Robert E. Stripling, chief investigator for the committee, said the subpoena was issued to Mark Wood, New York, president of the network.

Chairman Dies (D., Texas) of the committee set up by the House to investigate un-American activities, currently is engaged in a controversy with Winchell over the latter's Sunday-night broadcasts.

Charges Made In House

Dies recently charged in the House that the newspaper columnist and radio commentator was engaged in a campaign to "smear" Congress, and cited the commentator's frequent references to Dies and other House members, notably Representatives Hoffman (R., Mich.) and Rankin (D., Miss.).

Dies spoke to the House yesterday about Winchell, charging that he was disseminating "deliberately false statements," about the activities of the Dies committee. He stated he had written Winchell and the Blue Network last December asking for a chance to prove this, by throwing open his files and allowing the radio chain and the commentator "to be the jury." He asserted he never got a reply.

Hoffman similarly assailed the Winchell broadcasts in the House, asserting that the Andrew Jergens Company, of Cincinnati, paid Winchell $260,000 a year for his Sunday evening radio comment, and stating:

"Should Summon Jergens"

"For his own good and for the good of the country, the Dies committee should summon Jergens to explain why he permits, why he sponsors the continuance of the vicious attacks upon Congress, upon those in the armed forces, by Winchell.

"In view of Winchell's record, it is pertinent to inquire of Jergens whether Winchell has any hold upon him, which prevents him from taking steps to curb his spokesman, his employe, in the face of mounting public indignation."

Winchell's Comment

At Miami Beach Winchell demanded, "Why don't they subpœna Winchell?" when he was informed of the committee's action.

"I have repeatedly asked to be called before this committee, or any Congressional group, to tell them things I am not permitted to say on the radio or in the newspapers.

They don't want me.

"The committee has had access to my radio scripts for two years. The subpœna doesn't mean anything."

At Wood's office in New York, it was said there would be no immediate comment from that source.